

CLAIMS

1. A drive device for a system for the transverse drawing of films of synthetic material, of the kind that use, for holding, transporting and drawing the film, successive grippers supported and guided by rails, and driven forward by endless chains connecting the grippers together, which comprises, for driving each endless chain connecting the grippers, at least two drive sprockets of large diameter, namely a drive sprocket situated at the front end of the "outbound" strand of the chain and another drive sprocket situated at the rear end of the " return" strand of the chain, there being associated with each sprocket motorized means for rotationally driving this sprocket and the motorized drive means associated with the two respective sprockets being synchronized with one another.
2. The drive device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the drive sprockets for driving the chains have a diameter in excess of 1.5 meters.
3. The drive device as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the motorized rotational drive means are, for each drive sprocket, a feedback-controlled electric motor, the two motors associated one with each of the two sprockets being synchronized in terms of speed and being feedback controlled in such a way that the torque needed to drive the endless chain is divided more or less equally between the sprocket situated at the entry to the transverse drawing system and the sprocket situated at the exit from the transverse drawing system.
4. The drive device for a system for the transverse drawing of films of synthetic material particularly as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, wherein each drive

5 sprocket of large diameter consists of an outer annulus with a tooth set tailored to suit the chain that is to be driven, and a fixed horizontal support part, the annulus and said support part being joined together by a collection of balls or of rollers providing rotational guidance of the outer annulus, while the support part is fixed horizontally to a support structure.

10 5. The drive device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the outer annulus of each drive sprocket of large diameter bears an internal tooth set of a diameter similar to the outside diameter of said sprocket, with which tooth set there engages a motorized pinion of
15 relatively small diameter itself rotationally driven by motorized means associated with the sprocket concerned.

6. The drive device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the motorized pinion engaged with the aforementioned
20 internal tooth set is rotationally driven directly by the output shaft of the associated motor.

7. The drive device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the motorized pinion engaged with the aforementioned
25 internal tooth set is rotationally driven via a reduction gearbox with or without a right-angle gear, which reduction gearbox is a relatively small size.